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Let's Look at THE RECORD

An Address delivered by

HON. WILLIAM ABERHART, B.A.

Premier of Alberta

during the debate on the

SPEECH FROM THE THRONE

Friday, February 17th, 1939

in the

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

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An Address on
The
“Record of the Government”

Delivered by Hon. William Aberhart, B.A., Premier of Alberta, during the debate on the Speech From the Throne, Friday, February 17th, 1939, in the Legislative Assembly.

MAY I say, to begin with, that I have no intention of being personal or antagonistic toward any Member of this House. I claim that we are not here for that purpose, notwithstanding what has taken place during the last week in the discussions of the Speech from the Throne which, in my estimation, are tirades of personalities against Members of this Government and Members of this House.

On Wednesday, the Honourable Leader of the Conservative Party told of his conversation with the Honourable Member from Olds in which, language was used which was not parliamentary, and I understood that one of them threatened to take the hide off the other. I am sure that this had a very detrimental effect on the Honourable Leader of the Conservative Party, for I noticed that he was nervous, high strung, and irritable. His speech was not characterized by his usual suavity, vigour and self-control.

May I also say that before the opening of the session we were told that the speakers of the opposition side were preparing to blast the Government to pieces and give us a stormy time. Evidently this was one of the wild rumours that were floating about at that time, for so far as we have gone we have had no bombardment whatever, and the storm we have had was a tempest in a teacup. Never in the three years of our administration has the opposition shown itself

so weak and ineffective as on this occasion.

This is being noticed by the public and by the press. It is my opinion that the cause of this helplessness is not due to fear in any way, nor due to lack of desire to criticize and to find fault. Their helplessness is due largely to the careful constructive addresses of the Members on this side of the House, and to the progressive and efficient administration of the present Government.

Just here I should like to congratulate the mover of this Motion, the Honourable Member from Sedge-wick, and the Seconder, the Honourable Member from Leduc, who both acquitted themselves most admirably, and who gave us two very clear, constructive and conclusive addresses which left the opposition without effective reply. These Members were ably supported by others who are proving by their discussions that the Social Credit Members on this side of the House know the policies of this Government for which they stand, and that the principles of Social Credit have a very strong place in their hearts.

I need not say as Premier that we welcome the Honourable Member from Athabasca, Mr. Tade, to a place on this side of the House. I am sure that he will acquit himself in the usual splendid manner. The Honourable Mr. Tade is a definite reminder to the world and to the opposition in particular that the people of Alberta are not abandoning the Social Credit philosophy. I cannot help regretting, Mr. Speaker, that the Members of the Liberal Party are not showing good sportsmanship in taking their defeat in the Athabasca constituency with good grace.

My reason for speaking on this occasion is not due to any need of defence from an attack upon the Government or its policies by the opposition. I am merely speaking to throw a little more light on the work that we have successfully accomplished in Al-

berta, and to indicate what may yet be expected from our policies. I am satisfied that a brief survey of these two factors will be a complete answer to the unwarranted, unproven charges and declarations of all those who have said that nothing has been, or is being done, and that the principles of Social Credit, the only remedy for this chaotic state in which we find ourselves, are being abandoned by us.

First of all, I should like to reply to the speeches of the opposition thus far given. May I take first the address of the Honourable Leader of the Conservative Party. It did not contain as much matter as the speech by the Honourable Leader of the Liberal Party, although it took four times as long to deliver. The reason for this, I think, was that the Honourable Mr. Duggan stooped to personalities, irony and sarcasm that did not help a bit, and that would indicate he was slipping a little. Furthermore, I feel he was not very careful in choosing his facts.

For example, early in his address he produced and read an article from the *Albertan* written by W. M. Davidson in which this veteran newspaper man described my interview with the Rt. Hon. Mackenzie King, Prime Minister of Canada, regarding the refunding of our provincial debt. I was much surprised to hear the Honourable Leader of the Conservative Party read this article, for the simple reason that there was not a word of truth in it from beginning to end. You will remember, I am sure, that Tuesday afternoon I told this House that we had not discussed the refunding plan with the Prime Minister and the Cabinet for the reason that we had discussed it the day before with the finance committee of the Federal Government. I have, therefore, been wondering why a Conservative of the Conservatives, (or as the Apostle Paul would say, a Pharisee of the Pharisees,) could accept without question such a wild statement as that from a radical socialist. Mr. Davidson is, and has been for many years a deep dyed socialist

who has no use for the financiers, and we all know that the Honourable Leader of the Conservative Party is a dyed-in-the-wool Conservative who serves the financiers and eats out of the hands of the money monopolists.

Now to think that this staunch Conservative could swallow holus bolus these statements in a written article is bothering me greatly. Instantly there flashed to my mind the Chinese philosophy which is worded thus: "Gaping mouths easily swallow fish worms." The interpretation, of course, is that eagerness along any line makes men ready to accept any yarn presented.

I feel, Mr. Speaker, that I must take the time of this House to correct an impression that was left by the Honourable Leader of the Conservative Party in his attack upon the Honourable Member from Leduc. I am very sorry indeed that the Honourable Leader of the Conservative Party should go to such an extent as to introduce a subtle insinuation which was meant to disrupt fellowship and cause strife and suspicion on every side. You know, there is an old saying that if you cannot answer a man's argument you should attack him and his friends personally. This the Honourable Leader of the Conservative Party proceeded to do. In the first place, he said the Honourable Member from Leduc did not write his speech. This was denied. Then he said that the Honourable Member had to say what he was ordered to say. That was also declared false. Then he raised again the insurgency question, and tried to insult him in his remarks regarding it.

May I say just here, Mr. Speaker, that the very fact that some of the Members on this side of the House went through the trying experience of that period and made the declarations they did make, and still remain on this side of the House, proves the freedom of speech and action that they enjoy on the Government side.

Finally the Honourable Leader of the Conservative Party said that the Honourable Member from Leduc and many others would get theirs when the axe fell. This he explained to mean my determination to have revenge. That is also diabolically false, I think, Mr. Speaker, that this is beneath the privilege of the Honourable Member to say these things in this House, and I certainly think it is beneath his privilege as a respectable Christian gentleman. I am sure that he knows that one of the first qualities of a Christian is to forgive his fellow men, and to hold no grudge. Shakespeare put into the mouth of Portia these words: "As in the course of justice none of us should see salvation, we do pray for mercy, and that same prayer doth teach us all to render the deeds of mercy."

But the Honourable Leader of the Conservative Party must know that as a friend this was the unkindest cut of all. He was trying by this diabolical method to create suspicion in the minds and hearts of these my friends, the Members on this side of the House. I think I have the right, therefore, to assure the Members on this side of the House that I have nothing against them whatever. I have no grudge to satisfy, and I have no intention of using any axe.

Just here may I say one word about the Social Credit method of choosing candidates. Why should this bother so much the members of the Old Line Parties? It has nothing to do with them. Surely they do not claim that the method used by them for choosing candidates is democratic. I am of the opinion that they are afraid of its efficiency, and that is what is bothering them. Those who understand the Social Credit method of choosing candidates know full well that I do not pick the candidates. Candidates are chosen from a quota of three or four selected by the people in a general convention. From these three or four, the individual candidate is selected by a committee of representative men from the various

parts of the constituency. To secure unity throughout the Province, and to prevent skull-duggery of any kind, an advisory committee chosen by the Board of Management of the Social Credit League sits in with the representatives from the various parts of the constituency to advise them in their choice. I am persuaded that this is the most democratic method of choosing candidates that has ever been established in this country.

Now may I continue. In the Honourable Mr. Duggan's main address he mentions three main things. That is all. First he said, unless we give more attention to our home markets, we cannot expect progress. He did not say how that was to be done, it was a mere general statement. Surely he knows that unless there is more purchasing power in the hands of the people we cannot increase home consumption. Why did he not admit that there is already inaugurated in this Province by the present Government the greatest campaign of Buy Alberta-Made Goods that has ever been put on in any province in the Dominion of Canada. That would be giving credit where credit is due. No wonder he did not say anything about it.

Next he said, the present Government has shot to pieces the credit of this Province, and he proved it by drawing attention to the many school districts in default in their debenture payments. When questioned, he admitted that this debt structure was built up long before this Government came into power and yet he claimed that this government was to be blamed. Now he knows full well the reason why any school district defaults in their debenture payments. The farmers are not able to pay taxes to meet their maturities because the prices of the products of the farm have dropped below the cost of production. As a bond dealer he also knows that the debenture companies will not renew these debentures for the school districts so what else can be expected. The Honourable Mr. Duggan was in close connection

with the situation when the Province of Alberta tried to meet their first maturity in January, 1936, and through the indifference of the Federal Government and the adamant position of the bond companies, the Province was first forced to default. Would it not show the loyalty of the Honourable Leader of the Conservative Party in a better light if he would take the same position as the Honourable W. A. Walsh, Conservative Member of Mount Royal, did when speaking in the address debate in the House of Commons on January 24th, 1939. May I read his words:

"It has been left to a Liberal Government practically to undo what the fathers of confederation have done. Just take a glance over the political map of Canada and you will readily see to what I have reference. This Government is not on speaking terms with the Government of Alberta—not through any fault of the Alberta Government. Because they were not a government after the complexion of this administration, this administration refused to consider with the Alberta Government the question of taking care of a loan that became due. It had, in my opinion, a political motive in view. That should never have been. No Dominion Government should allow any Provincial Government to fall down on the repayment of any loan secured from the public. This Government says it was impossible to deal with the Premier and the Provincial Treasurer of Alberta. I say that it was not only possible, but that it was the duty of this Government to bring the Premier and the Treasurer of Alberta to Ottawa and to lock themselves in a room with those gentlemen and say, 'We will go out of this room when this question is settled satisfactorily both to you and to ourselves.' The Province of Alberta had as much right to fair treatment from this Government as any other Provincial Government in Canada. That

was the beginning of a very sharp antagonism between the Province of Alberta and the Dominion Government at present holding office."

Now let us return—what was the Honourable Member's suggestion in connection with these school districts' default? He says that the Government should come to the aid of these districts and supply the necessary funds. From what sources? There are only three sources from which funds can come:

- (1) By borrowing and going deeper into debt,
- (2) By taxing the people more,
- (3) By taking the amount out of the general revenue.

Why does the Honourable Member not face the situation honestly? He must know that we cannot borrow. He surely knows that the people cannot pay more taxes. So his only suggestion is to reduce the educational services in order to pay the money barons their interest and principal. I want to assure the Honourable Member and the other Members of this House here and now that when the time comes that I am obliged to let the children suffer in order to meet the claims of the coupon clippers, you can take it from me that I will no longer serve in the capacity of the Minister of Education. Our children are our greatest heritage. They must receive prior claim upon our resources.

From this the Honourable Mr. Duggan turned to the building programme for the Province. He was sure that our credit was all shot to pieces because of the smallness of the building programme. He evidently refuses to believe that the mortgage and insurance companies have placed this Province under a financial boycott. I might say that we hope that all excuse of these companies will be removed by our legislation which will be introduced at this Session. When our Members referred to the money coming in for oil development and for building purposes by

the Hudson's Bay Company, the T. Eaton Company and the British-American Companies, he dismissed it with a wave of the hand but I claim he must at least admit that some people are not afraid to invest money in this Province.

Mr. Speaker, I cannot help but feel that the Honourable Leader of the Conservative Party made a very poor showing as a representative of the progressive city of Edmonton. I think that probably it is a Godsend to the Honourable Leader that there will likely be no election this year or he might find only one Conservative left in the House.

May I now turn your attention to the address of the Honourable Leader of the Liberal Party. I really expected more from him than he gave us. Remember he is the head of the largest Opposition Party of this House and if there are any faults to be found he should find them. With so many problems before us and with such progressive action being taken by the Alberta Government one might have expected that the Provincial Leader of any party seeking the people's approval shortly could never have covered all he had to say in 25 or 30 minutes. That surely speaks well for our Government. You would have at least thought that he would have presented an Opposition platform that might solve our problems. I hesitate to criticise the Honourable Member too severely as I realize he has been somewhat worried lately. The Eastern Irrigation District project has been quite distressing and the leadership of the Provincial Liberal Party under the present circumstances with so many buttinskis would give anyone a headache. He is, therefore, to be excused. I am sure the Honourable Member will be glad when he is free from this E.I.D. business and were I in his place I think I would resign from the leadership of the Liberal Party before it goes to the ground.

Now I listened most patiently to the points in the Honourable Leader's address and I should like

to analyse them a little. In the first place he begins by criticising the present Government because it proceeds to take steps to implement its promises and policies and has done less talking about what it is going to do. Here are his words as published:

"The references to Social Credit have become less and less in each address until in this address, which is a statement of approximately 1,600 words there is not one reference to Social Credit. The words are not even used. The three factors are not even mentioned. Are we to interpret this to mean that the promises on which this Government was elected in 1935 have been thrown absolutely into the discard."

If the Honourable Member had read the Speech from the Throne more carefully he would have seen action written in every paragraph. The year 1939 is to be one of action. It is time that the Members of the Liberal Party recognize the fact that the habit of continuously proclaiming policies as the Liberal Party constantly does without taking any action will not be followed by this Government and will not be tolerated by a long suffering people. I fear that the Honourable Leader of the Liberal Party has been so long schooled in the Old Line Party methods that it is most difficult for him to recognize anything different. That is the reason for his criticism. Everyone knows that the Honourable the Prime Minister of Canada carries the banner in this regard. Continuously the Prime Minister of Canada declares that money and credit must be issued in terms of the country's need but up to the present he has never made the slightest attempt to put his policies into practice. You can, therefore, quite understand how the Honourable Leader of the Liberal Party of Alberta would criticise this Government for reversing the Liberal method. He says there is not one word referring to Social Credit in the whole address. On page 3, paragraph 2, there is a reference to Treasury

Branches. Had he the slightest understanding of the function of the Treasury Branches or had he read the little blue book that all Liberals carry with them so assiduously and from which they quote so unintelligently he would have known something about Credit Houses and their relation to Social Credit and would not have made this charge. On page 3, paragraph 6, we have a reference to "The Case for Alberta" in part 2 of which the whole application of the principles of Social Credit to the Province of Alberta is fully discussed.

The fact remains, however, that the Honourable Mr. Gray is seriously objecting to the definite action which the present Government is taking instead of merely proclaiming of its policies. He says he is in touch with the common people, the man in the street. I question that. He may have talked to a few old die-hard Liberals on the street corners of Brooks but I am confident that the common people are completely disgusted and surfeited with the clap-trap of the Old Line Parties. I think it is good that he has informed the people regarding this so that they may know what to expect when the Liberal Party offers itself for approval at the next election.

Following this the Honourable Leader proceeded to make his second point by criticism collected from what I think was the philosophy of Kyam who, I am told, lived 3,000 years before Christ. Here are the words of the Honourable Leader as published:

"No person or organization really fails until it starts to blame some other person or organization for such failure"

Strange as it may seem, as soon as the Honourable Leader made this statement he proceeded to blame the present Government for the very things that have been caused by the Liberal Party when it was in power. Who is responsible for the first 95 million dollars debt on the public of this Province? The Liberal Party of course. Then why blame the present

Government? The present Government is the only one in Canada that has ceased going into debt. Who is responsible for the present condition of the farmers referred to by the Honourable Leader of the Liberal Party? The farmers were in this condition long before we got into power. This Government has steadfastly done everything in its power to remedy and relieve the unfortunate and oppressive conditions in which the farmers find themselves. Who is responsible for the world prices of wheat and the pegging of the price in Canada at only 80 cents as referred to by the Honourable Leader of the Liberal Party? Surely the Government of Alberta cannot be held responsible for either of these. Our Minister of Agriculture repeatedly pressed for a pegged price of $87\frac{1}{2}$ c a bushel. But the Federal Government, a Liberal Party, refused to make the price high enough to give the farmers a return equal to that of the previous year with a smaller crop. Why did the Honourable Leader of the Liberal Party blame us for all these things? Are we to conclude that according to his own philosophy he was predicting the failure of his own party?

Next he turned his attention to relief. I noticed that he took definite issue with his superiors in Ottawa in this connection. May I read his published statement:

“It has long been my opinion that an organization taking in the unemployed, the youth training projects, the apprenticeship projects should be placed on a Provincial or even a Municipal basis and put into operation in connection with our natural resources at no greater net cost than we are now paying and with much greater benefit”

We wonder if he knows that upon investigation the Federal Government has found that such a method would not be feasible or practicable and would be most costly to the tax payer. If the Honourable Member has found something new and wonderful

why in the world does he not inform the Liberal Governments in the eight other provinces whose unemployment problems are becoming worse. Evidently he does not know that Alberta is the only province which shows an improvement in the number on relief.

By the way I wonder if the Honourable Leader of the Liberal Party has considered what would be done with the extra production that this would give. If we are having difficulty to dispose of what we now produce how does the Honourable Leader hope to get returns from the extra production. I am afraid that this is a half-baked idea and it shows his inability as a leader.

Finally, I was more than surprised at his attitude to debt adjustment. Here are his words as published:

"With respect to debt and debt adjustment, my opinion is that too little is known about the actual situation in this Province. No one in this Province at the present time has a clear comprehensive knowledge of it. It is time that the whole debt structure was reviewed and a little order brought out of the chaos of it."

If it is true that no one in this Province has a clear comprehensive knowledge of the debt situation, the Honourable Leader of the Liberal Party must be repudiating the Farmers' Creditors Board of Review, a creature of the Federal Liberal Government. Does he mean to tell us that this Board is not doing its work intelligently? If so, why would the Liberal Party ask for the appointment of more Boards to review the debt? I am afraid the Honourable Leader is getting out of touch with his supporters. Merely appointing another committee of investigation or survey will merely mean delay which would be most disastrous at the present time and I am sure would not be tolerated by the farmers and home owners of Alberta.

May I say this—that had this Government not

acted with precision and dogged determination in connection with debt adjustment, there would be many of our citizens turned out of their homes and from their farms today that are at present having a chance to save their equity. It would appear that the Provincial Liberal Party is at six's and seven's regarding the debt situation. So what can the people expect?

Now, Mr. Speaker, I feel that I have covered most of the arguments presented by the Leaders of the Opposition. I shall deal with the others as I proceed to analyze the contents of the Speech from the Throne. I am fully aware that the Opposition has complained about the length of the Speech. On a former occasion they complained that we made it too short to give them anything to talk about. Evidently they have nothing to talk about anyway.

The length of the Speech from the Throne could not be otherwise this year if we are to tell the whole story in outline of our administration and accomplishments and if we are to give any indication of what is to be expected from our policies during the next year.

After referring very briefly to our great delight in anticipation of the Royal visit of Their Majesties to our fair Dominion and to our desire to give our people the privilege of greeting them, and especially the children, we outlined the general conditions in paragraph 3 under three headings:

(1) Business progress—"Statistics substantiate the various indications of steady business progress."

The press has informed us that Alberta is the only province in Canada where there has been an increase in wholesale business. Alberta had an 8 per cent increase. Tuesday's paper had a further item along this line: "Alberta ranked third in the percentage of all motor vehicles sold throughout the Dominion during the year 1938." the only provinces with greater sales than Alberta were Quebec and Ontario.

(2) Unemployment—"It is also encouraging to note that there has been a decrease in the number of unemployed in the Province." This is explained in the last sentence of the paragraph which I have headed "increased purchasing power." "Through the activities of the Board of Industrial Relations thousands of dollars have been restored to employees, thereby increasing their purchasing power."

For the benefit of those who have the idea that the principles of Social Credit are being abandoned, may I point out that this is one of the fundamental principles of the Social Credit philosophy.

Next, the Speech calls attention to the work that is being accomplished.

(1) In the Field of Education:

To correct what has been said on the floor of this House, ignorantly I think, may I read: "The larger school units covering 90% of the Province now number forty-four. Where they have been in operation for some time they are proving very satisfactory, and their record of accomplishment is most gratifying."

In most cases the total cost of education in the larger school units has been slightly less than the total cost under individual local school districts. Hence the taxes on the whole area cannot be higher. It is true the taxes will be equalized so that in places where the taxes were too low they may be increased and in cases where the taxes were too high, they may be decreased.

The Honourable Leader of the Conservative Party spoke of the unsatisfactory conditions in most schools. I am glad to assure him that these conditions are rapidly being improved. "It is anticipated that within a few years, financial arrangements, adequate housing and a comprehensive plan of high school education with a reasonably varied programme, will have been provided in all parts of the Province."

The policy of the Government is clearly indicated in the last sentence of this section, paragraph 5: "My Government seeks to complete the task of re-organizing Rural Education and the administration of the Curriculum; to work out some plan whereby no child of ability will be prevented from developing its powers to capacity because of lack of opportunity."

Now, regarding Youth Training—Alberta holds the proud distinction of being second to no other province in Canada in the efficiency and general results of the Youth Training Programme.

(2) Health and Agricultural Departments:

On page 2 we have the report and prospects of the Health and Agricultural Departments. May I read one or two sentences from them: "We have the distinction of being the only Province in the Dominion of Canada that provides a District Nursing Service to people cut off from Medical Services." Previous years have seen our accomplishments in regard to Tuberculosis and Infantile Paralysis. This year we have this to predict: "A Maternal Welfare Act will be presented for your consideration. It will increase the number of district nurses and enable my Government to add to the service now being given." The long range view of our programme is revealed in the last sentence: "My Government will continue to take progressive steps towards ultimate State Medicine."

Our accomplishments in the field of Agriculture are known far and wide. Since the present Minister has taken office, much progress has been made. Our programme for this year is summed up briefly in this sentence: "Consideration will be given to the problem of production, processing, transportation and marketing of farm products." "My Government will continue to give the most careful consideration to all measures calculated to promote and stabilize agriculture."

(3) Public Works Department:

Mr. Speaker, there is no need of me mentioning the progress made by our Public Works Department. All anyone needs to do is to get out in his automobile and drive. There is no provincial government in Western Canada than can boast of such wonderful roads as those of Alberta. We must constantly bear in mind that these roads have been built without debt. Why do the Opposition not give us some credit for this accomplishment?

This year, in addition to carrying on with the regular wide programme of road building, we are pressing our way far into the vast resources of the north. Listen to this sentence: "My Government will also continue to press for the improvement of the transportation facilities on the McMurray-Goldfields route, in order to be able to handle the greatly increased traffic to the far north."

(4) Interim Programme (Social Credit):

Now, on page 3 of the Speech from the Throne, we come to the part that has seemingly baffled the understanding of the Opposition. "During the year just past my Government provided Treasury Branch service for the people of the Province. Since this service is inseparably bound up with the development of Alberta Industries, it would seem desirable, in response to widespread demand, to extend branches and agencies until a network is established in all the key points of the Province." The people must be given the machinery by which to use their own credit.

The next paragraph further provides this machinery in the form of Credit Unions, "ten of which are now in operation and a similar number are in process of organization."

(5) The Case for Alberta (Social Credit):

Three paragraphs farther down we have "The Case for Alberta" brought to your attention. Each member of the Legislature was supplied with a copy.

We hope you read it carefully. Part One deals with Alberta conditions as they are; Part Two shows how the principles of Social Credit can remedy these conditions. Surely it behooves the Members of the Opposition to read what has been given them before they make such unwarranted criticisms.

(6) Miscellaneous Matters:

Other matters are referred to—the redistribution and unemployment surveys, the oil and gas conservation, the pipe line projects, municipal taxation, and so forth and so on, which are engaging the attention of our Government at the present time.

I sometimes wonder if the public and the Members of the Opposition know what is being done in debt adjustment and the development of the oil industry. Both of these subjects are dealt with on the last page.

Wednesday afternoon, when the Honourable Member from Grouard was talking so exultingly about Saskatchewan's reduction of debt and declaring that 165 million dollars were taken off the debt, some were confused in that he linked it up with my statement of 28 million dollars reduction by Federal Government in provincial debt. Saskatchewan still has a provincial debt of 206 million dollars, Alberta about 157 million dollars. The Honourable Member makes so many misstatements and confuses so many factors that the public is unable to depend upon him.

After his praising of Saskatchewan conditions, I was on my way to my office when a man and his wife from Saskatchewan, who were present in the House and heard the Honourable Member's declarations, came rushing up to me and said: "Who was that man that was talking about Saskatchewan this afternoon?" I replied: "The Honourable Member from Grouard, Mr. Tremblay." "Well," said they, "he doesn't know what he is talking about. Conditions in Saskatchewan in connection with debt adjustment are

awful and farmers generally are in a very bad state." I replied: "Oh well, you need not worry. We do not pay much attention to what he says."

Now, Mr. Speaker, I have taken up a considerable amount of time. I have departed from my usual policy and I wonder if I have accomplished anything. I am sure our members are fully aware of everything I have said. I am equally sure that the Opposition will not accept anything that I have said. The public I can reach by the radio, so why take up the time of the House with a long address. You know there is an old Chinese proverb which reads, "Crowing hens lay no eggs." If I must choose, I would rather be a hen that lays eggs for the good of mankind than a hen that crows and never takes any action. Thank you, Sir.

